

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1372

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202807

STADIS////////////////////

EXDIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT SECTO 21002, SENT BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN,
CAIRO, JIDDA, INFO SECSTATE, LONDON, NICOSIA, ATHENS, TEL AVIV,
PARIS 13 AUG:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 21002

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF FSO TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON:

CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE GENERAL PRESS GUIDELINES WHICH WE WILL
EMPLOY IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED ABOUT OUR SENDING AN FSO
TEMPORARILY TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON.

2. OWING TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON, IT HAS NOT
BEEN POSSIBLE FOR OUR PERSONNEL IN OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT
TO GET IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH MANY OF THE LEADERS AND
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INFLUENTIAL PERSONALITIES LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE

PRESENT CONFRONTATION LINE IN BEIRUT. IT WILL BE RECALLED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT AMBASSADOR MELOY, COUNSELOR WARING AND THEIR DRIVER WERE ASSASSINATED WHILE TRYING TO CROSS THE CONFRONTATION LINE TO CALL IN PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS AND OTHER PERSONS LIVING IN EAST BEIRUT.

3. FOR THIS REASON, EDWARD P. DJEREJIAN, A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WITH EXPERIENCE IN LEBANON, WILL BE SPENDING ABOUT A WEEK IN THIS AREA, WHICH CANNOT NOW BE REACHED BY OUR PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH KEY LEBANESE PERSONALITIES THERE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LEBANESE SCENE AND TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS.

4. MR. DJEREJIAN HAD BRIEF CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING TO LEBANON TO AUGMENT, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, THE ACTIVITY OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. WE HOPE THAT THE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN LEBANON WILL SOON IMPROVE TO THE POINT WHERE MORE REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN THE PERSONNEL OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND ALL THE LEBANESE PARTIES WILL AGAIN BE POSSIBLE. WE MAY BE SENDING AN OFFICER THERE AGAIN FROM TIME TO TIME IF SECURITY CONDITIONS SO DICTATE.

5. (IF ASKED) SENDING AN OFFICER TEMPORARILY TO A PART OF LEBANON WHICH CANNOT NOW BE REACHED BY OUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL DOES NOT IMPLY ANY POLICY CHANGE AND IS BEING DONE FOR PURELY PRACTICAL REASONS. THE U.S. REMAINS OPPOSED TO PARTITION OR DE FACTO PARTITION AS A SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE TRAGEDY. WE FIRMLY SUPPORT LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY, ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS NATIONAL COHESION AND UNITY.

6. (IF PRESSED FOR FURTHER DETAILS): MR. DJEREJIAN IS PRESENTLY CONSUL GENERAL IN BORDEAUX, FRANCE. HE WENT INTO JOUNIEH, LEBANON BY THE REGULAR COMMERCIAL BOAT SERVICE FROM CYPRUS. OUR PRESENT PLANNING IS THAT, ON COMPLETING HIS VISIT TO LEBANON, HE WILL PROCEED PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON TO DELIVER HIS REPORT AND WILL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RETURN TO BORDEAUX.

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7. (IF PRESSED AS TO WHETHER DJEREJIAN'S POSSIBLY SEEING CHAMOUN CONSTITUTES USG RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER): MR. CHAMOUN IS A PROMINENT CHRISTIAN LEADER AND A FORMER PRESIDENT. AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM REGULARLY. WHETHER HE HOLDS A CABINET POSITION IS NOT THE POINT; WE WOULD HAVE WANTED DJEREJIAN TO SEE CHAMOUN IN ANY EVENT.

8. AFTER RPT AFTER DJEREJIAN HAS ARRIVED IN JOUNIEH,
EMBASSY BEIRUT IS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON THE FOREGOING
GUIDANCE IN ANSWERING
INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS AS WELL AS
FROM INTERESTED LEBANESE. OTHER ACTION AND INFO POSTS
MAY ALSO USE THIS GUIDANCE, BUT ONLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REFERRING ALL PRESS QUERIES
TO WASHINGTON. KISSINGER UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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